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SCIENCE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, PUBLISHING THE
OFFICIAL NOTICES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1902.

THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION.

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TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I certainly appreciate your kind letter inviting me to join with you and others in publicly discussing in the columns of SCIENCE the question of the endowment of scientific research with special reference to the possibilities which are wrapped up in Mr. Carnegie's recent gift to the institution in Washington. Without such an invitation coming from you I should have hesitated to give utterance to any of the thoughts which naturally have arisen in my mind in this connection. I feel delicacy in making suggestions touching matters in reference to which my opinion has not been solicited. But when the editor of SCIENCE asks me to speak I cannot refuse to comply with his request.

There is but one truly scientific mind in the universe, whose vision sweeps from Sol to Alcyone, which notes the sparrows as they fall, and numbers the hairs of our heads. Every effort of the human intellect to ascertain the unknown as to the whole of things is an effort to apprehend the thought which lies in the great Synthetic Mind. As a philosopher I have long ago been taught the folly of calling anything great or anything little which Infinite Wisdom has planned and called into being. Nothing knowable is in certain aspects fundamentally more important than